Claims 16-30 were subject to restriction as follows.

Group I, claims 16-26 and 29 (benzotriazole of formula 1);
Group II, claims 16-26 and 29 (triazine of formula 2);
Group III, claims 16-26 and 29 (benzotriazole of formula 1 and triazine of formula 2);
Group IV, claims 16-30 (benzotriazole of formula 1);
Group V, claims 16-30 (triazine of formula 2);
Group VI, claims 16-30 (benzotriazole of formula 1 and triazine of formula 2).

Responsive to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office action, the claims of group I, claims 16-26 and 29 (embracing benzotriazoles of formula 1), are elected for examination.

Additionally, for any Group, election of a single species for searching purposes is required.

Responsive to the election of species requirement set forth in the Office action, the compound of the formula (53) on page 9 of the specification is elected for initial examination.

This election and the restriction requirement are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a method for protecting body-care and household products from photolytic degradation which comprises incorporating into a body care or household product a UV absorber. The benzotriazoles of formula (1) and the triazine compounds of formula (2) in claim 16 are classical representatives of UV absorbers. These triazines and benzotriazoles are disclosed as interchangeable members of a Markush group of UV absorbers in the present methods. There is a disclosure of interchangeable use of the compounds of the various groups and a disclosure as being capable of use together in the presently claimed invention. Moreover, the compounds of the various groups have the same mode of operation, the same function and the same effects. The subject matter of the groups is thus so intertwined as to preclude restriction between them.

For all of the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

On finding claims directed to the elected species to be allowable, withdrawal of the election requirement and consideration of the patentability of the remainder of the Markush group is also respectfully solicited.

An examination on the merits of all the claims is respectfully awaited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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KTM\21868AR

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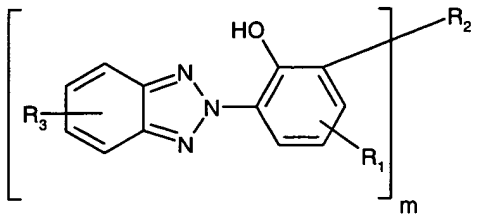
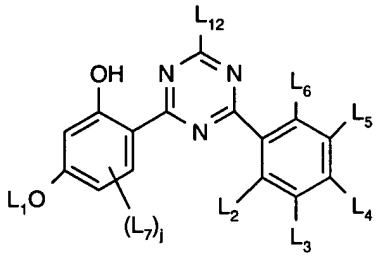
APPENDIX: Marked up version of amended claims.

16. (amended) A method for protecting body-care and household products from photolytic degradation which comprises incorporating into a body care or household product a UV absorber which is a benzotriazole of formula

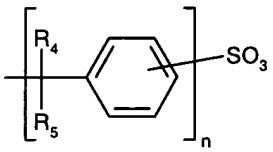
(1) 

and/or a triazine compound of formula

(2) 

wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl; C_1-C_5alkoxy; C_1-C_5alkoxycarbonyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; C_6-C_{10}aryl; aralkyl; -SO_3M; a

radical of formula (1a) 

R_3~~R_8~~ is hydrogen; C_1-C_5alkyl; C_1-C_5alkoxy; halogen, preferably Cl; or hydroxy;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen; or C_1-C_5alkyl;

m is 1 or 2;

n is 0 or 1;

if m = 1,

R_2 is hydrogen; unsubstituted or phenyl-substituted C_1-C_{12}alkyl; C_6-C_{10}aryl;

if m = 2,

R_2 is a direct bond; -$(CH_2)_p$-; and

p is 1 to 3;

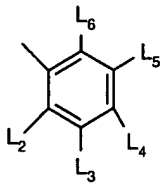
L_1 is C_1-C_{22}alkyl, C_2-C_{22}alkenyl or C_5-C_7cycloalkyl;

L_2 and L_6 are each independently of the other H, OH, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, halomethyl;

L_3, L_5 and L_7 are each independently of one another H, OH, OL_1, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, halomethyl;

L_4 is H, OH, OL_1, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, phenyl, halomethyl;

L_{12} is C_1-C_{22}alkyl, phenyl C_1-C_5alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, OL_1 or~~, preferably,~~ a group of formula

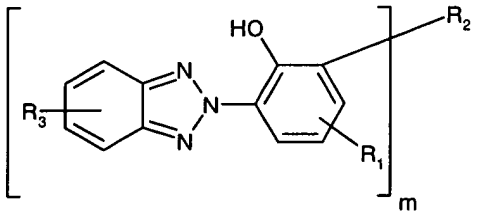


; and

j is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

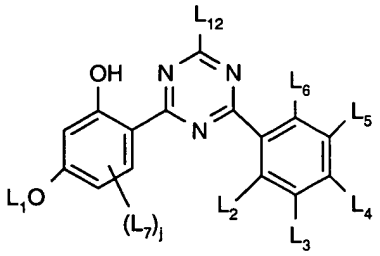
27. (amended) A method for preparation of household cleaning and treating agents which comprises incorporating into a household cleaning and treating agent a UV absorber which is a benzotriazole of formula

(1)



and/or a triazine compound of formula

(2)

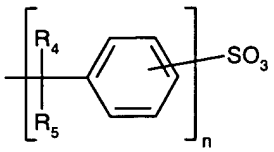


,

wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl; C_1-C_5alkoxy; C_1-C_5alkoxycarbonyl; C_5-C_7cycloalkyl; C_6-C_{10}aryl; aralkyl; -SO_3M; a

radical of formula (1a)



R_3~~R_8~~ is hydrogen; C_1-C_5alkyl; C_1-C_5alkoxy; halogen, preferably Cl; or hydroxy;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen; or C_1-C_5alkyl;

m is 1 or 2;

n is 0 or 1;

if m = 1,

R_2 is hydrogen; unsubstituted or phenyl-substituted C_1-C_{12}alkyl; C_6-C_{10}aryl;

if m = 2,

R_2 is a direct bond; -$(CH_2)_p$-; and

p is 1 to 3;

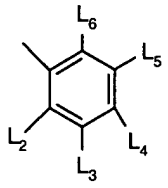
L_1 is C_1-C_{22}alkyl, C_2-C_{22}alkenyl or C_5-C_7cycloalkyl;

L_2 and L_6 are each independently of the other H, OH, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, halomethyl;

L_3, L_5 and L_7 are each independently of one another H, OH, OL_1, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, halomethyl;

L_4 is H, OH, OL_1, halogen, C_1-C_{22}alkyl, phenyl, halomethyl;

L_{12} is C_1-C_{22}alkyl, phenyl C_1-C_5alkyl, C_5-C_7cycloalkyl, OL_1 or~~, preferably,~~ a group of formula



; and

j is 0, 1, 2 or 3.